IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for supplying a flowable medium to ~~the~~ a tobacco rod of a smoking product (2), comprising the steps of:

forming a cigarette rod on ~~wherein the medium is introduced on a drum (1) of~~ a cigarette machine, ~~after the rod is formed~~; and

introducing said flowable medium to said tobacco rod on a drum(1) of said cigarette machine.

Claim 2. (original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the flowable medium is introduced as a material selected from the group of: liquid, pasty, powdery, filiform or gaseous medium.

Claim 3. (original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the flowable medium is introduced into the rod of the smoking product by a hollow mandrel (16), by inserting the hollow mandrel (16) into a front end and discharging the medium from the hollow mandrel while withdrawing it from the rod.

Claim 4. (original) The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein the hollow mandrel (16) is moved at a uniform speed with respect to the rod when introducing the medium, allowing distribution of the medium over the rod.

Claim 5. (original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the medium is introduced on the drum (1) of a filter assembler of a cigarette machine.

Claim 6. (original) The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein the hollow mandrel (16) is held on a

carrier drum (5) rotating synchronously with the drum (1).

Claim 7. (original) The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein the hollow mandrel (16) is provided with screw-like outer grooves, is inserted into and extracted from the rod with auto-rotation in opposite directions for inserting and extracting.

Claim 8. (original) The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the flowable medium is supplied to the hollow mandrel (16) by the rotational centrifugal forces of the rotating carrier drum (5).

Claim 9. (original) The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the flowable medium is supplied to the hollow mandrel (16) by a pump.

Claim 10. (original) The method as set forth in claim 8 wherein the flow of the medium is regulated by a valve.

Claim 11. (new) A method for supplying a flowable medium to a tobacco rod of a smoking product, comprising the steps of:

forming said tobacco rod on a drum of a cigarette machine;

inserting a hollow mandrel into an end of said tobacco rod; and

injecting said flowable medium from said hollow mandrel into said tobacco rod.

Claim 12. (new) The method of Claim 11, wherein said flowable medium is introduced on said drum of said cigarette machine by inserting said hollow mandrel into a lit end of said tobacco rod, thrusting said hollow mandrel through said tobacco rod to a filter end of said tobacco rod, and injecting said flowable medium from said hollow mandrel.

Claim 13. (new) The method of Claim 12, including injecting said flowable medium from said hollow mandrel while withdrawing said hollow mandrel from said tobacco rod.

Claim14. (new) The method of Claim 11, wherein said flowable medium is introduced on said drum of a filter assembler of said cigarette machine by inserting said hollow mandrel through a lit end of said tobacco rod, said hollow mandrel passing through said tobacco rod up to a filter end of said tobacco rod, and injecting said flowable medium into said tobacco rod during

withdrawal of said hollow mandrel.

Claim 15. (new) A method for supplying a flowable medium to a tobacco rod of a smoking product, comprising the steps of:

forming said tobacco rod; and

introducing said flowable medium into said tobacco rod on a drum of a cigarette machine by inserting a hollow mandrel into an end of said tobacco rod and injecting said flowable medium from said hollow mandrel.

Claim 16. (new) The method of Claim 15, wherein said medium is introduced as a material selected from the group of liquid, paste, powder, filiform, or gaseous medium.

Claim 17. (new) The method of Claim 15, wherein said medium is introduced on said drum of a filter assembler of said cigarette machine.

Claim 18. (new) The method of Claim 15, wherein said medium is introduced into said tobacco rod by inserting said hollow mandrel into a front end of said tobacco rod, said front end opposing a filter end, and discharging said medium from said hollow mandrel while withdrawing said hollow mandrel from said tobacco rod.

Claim 19. (new) The method of Claim 18, wherein said hollow mandrel is moved at a uniform speed with respect to said tobacco rod during withdrawal of said hollow mandrel when introducing said medium, allowing uniform distribution of said medium over said tobacco rod.

Claim 20. (new) The method of Claim 18, wherein said hollow mandrel is provided with spiraled outer grooves providing auto-rotation in opposing directions when said hollow mandrel is inserted into said tobacco rod and extracted from said tobacco rod.

Claim 21. (new) The method of Claim 18, wherein said hollow mandrel is held on a rotating carrier drum rotating synchronously with said drum.

Claim 22. (new) The method of Claim 21, wherein said medium is supplied to said hollow mandrel by a pump.

Claim 23. (new) The method of Claim 21, wherein said medium is supplied to said hollow mandrel by rotational centrifugal forces of said rotating carrier drum.

Claim 24. (new) The method of Claim 23, wherein said medium flow is regulated by a valve.

Claim 25. (new) A method for introducing a flowable medium to a formed tobacco rod of a smoking product on a drum of a cigarette machine, comprising the steps of:

inserting a hollow mandrel into a lit end of said formed tobacco rod;

driving said hollow mandrel to an opposing filter end of said formed tobacco rod; and

injecting said flowable medium from said hollow mandrel.

Claim 26. (new) The method of Claim 25, wherein said flowable medium is selected from the group of: liquid, pasty, powdery, filiform, or gaseous medium.

Claim 27. (new) The method of Claim 25, wherein said flowable medium is introduced on said drum of a filter assembler of said cigarette machine.

Claim 28. (new) The method of Claim 25, wherein said flowable medium is injected into said formed tobacco rod of said smoking product while said hollow mandrel is withdrawn at a uniform speed from said formed tobacco rod, allowing uniform distribution of said flowable medium over said formed tobacco rod.

Claim 29. (new) The method of Claim 28, wherein said hollow mandrel is provided with spiraled outer groves, and is inserted into said formed tobacco rod and extracted from said formed tobacco rod with auto-rotation in opposite directions for insertion and extraction.

Claim 30. (new) The method of Claim 28, wherein said hollow mandrel is held on a carrier drum rotating synchronously with said drum.

Claim 31. (new) The method of Claim 30, wherein said flowable medium is supplied to said hollow mandrel by rotational centrifugal forces of said carrier drum and said medium flow is regulated by a valve.

Claim 32. (new) The method of Claim 30, wherein said flowable medium is supplied to said hollow mandrel by a pump.

Claim 33. (new) A method for supplying a flowable medium to a formed tobacco rod of a smoking product, comprising the steps of:

introducing said flowable medium by inserting a hollow mandrel into a lit end of said formed tobacco rod while said formed tobacco rod is positioned on a drum of a cigarette machine;

driving said hollow mandrel to an opposing filter end of said formed tobacco rod; and

injecting said flowable medium while withdrawing said hollow mandrel from said formed tobacco rod.

Claim 34. (new) The method of Claim 33, wherein said medium is selected from the group of: liquid, pasty, powdery, filiform, or gaseous medium.

Claim 35. (new) The method of Claim 33, wherein said hollow mandrel is inserted and extracted at a consistent speed for even distribution of said flowable medium over said formed tobacco rod.

Claim 36. (new) The method of Claim 33, wherein said hollow mandrel has spiraled outer grooves and is inserted into and extracted from said formed tobacco rod with auto-rotation in opposite directions for insertion and extraction.

Claim 37. (new) The method of Claim 33, wherein said flowable medium is introduced on a drum of a filter assembler of said cigarette machine.

Claim 38. (new) The method of Claim 37, wherein said hollow mandrel is held on a rotating carrier drum rotating synchronously with said drum.

Claim 39. (new) The method of Claim 38, wherein said flowable medium is supplied to said hollow mandrel by a pump.

Claim 40. (new) The method of Claim 38, wherein said flowable medium is supplied to said hollow mandrel by rotational centrifugal forces of said rotating carrier drum.

Claim 41. (new) The method of Claim 40, wherein said medium flow is regulated by a valve.